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STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Crippled Children's Program in Montana is designed to help families of handicapped children provide the care needed to give the child the best possible chance to function at his highest level. The definition of a crippled child under which we function is broad enough to allow development of programs for care in those areas:

1. Where the need seems the greatest.
2. Which are not covered by other agencies and programs.
3. Within the limits of our staff and budget.

Diagnostic Categories Covered by the Program

The Crippled Children's Program will accept congenital anomalies, neoplasms, conditions which impair hearing, orthopedic and neurologic handicaps amenable to surgical treatment. The only conditions requiring purely medical treatment which are covered under the program are rheumatic fever and cystic fibrosis.

Diagnostic Services

Any child under 21 may be referred to the Crippled Children's Program for diagnostic services when it appears to the referring source that the child may have a condition which could be covered by this program. Eligibility for diagnostic services is not dependent upon the financial condition or legal residence of the family.

Diagnostic services are provided by:

1. Crippled Children's Clinics
   These clinics, which are primarily for the diagnosis of orthopedic and certain pediatric conditions, are held periodically at centers throughout the state. No appointment or previous authorizations are necessary for a child to attend any one of these clinics. However, it is preferable for the referral to be made through a doctor or one of the agencies concerned with the health and/or welfare of children.

2. Diagnosis in Office of a Program Physician
   When a Crippled Children's Clinic is not available, diagnosis may be secured in the office of a program physician, i.e., a physician who is either Board Certified or Board eligible in his specialty and who has agreed to accept patients referred by the State Board of Health. Request for this service should be made to Division of Child Health Services, State Department of Health.

3. Specialized Diagnostic Center or Clinic
   For some conditions, the diagnosis and treatment of which require several specialized services and the team approach, the State Department of Health maintains special facilities. These are the Heart Diagnostic Center, at Montana Deaconess Hospital, 1101 26th Street South, Great Falls; the Center for Handicapped Children, 1500 North 30th Billings; and the Cleft Palate Clinics in Billings, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula. Referrals to the Heart Center and the Center for Handicapped Children can be made directly or through Child

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3. Specialized Diagnostic Center or Clinic - Cont.
Health Services. Referrals to the Cleft Palate Program should be made to the State Department of Health.

Diagnosis at these clinics is a service which is available without regard to financial need. However, when special studies are needed to complete the evaluation the family is expected to pay if able.

Treatment Services

Families may receive financial assistance with recommended treatment. To establish eligibility for this part of the program we request:

1. Recommendation by program physician or one of the clinics or centers mentioned above.

2. A Social Study by health or welfare worker to establish:
   a. Family's need for assistance.
   b. Their understanding of what the child's condition requires.
   c. Factors which may affect the child's care.

3. An Application for Service signed by the parents or person legally responsible for the child.

Other Services

1. Consultation service - medical, social, nursing and health education.
2. Preventive services.
3. Educational programs.
4. Participation with other agencies to coordinate services.

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